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(19)



JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11) Publication number: **11271581 A**

(43) Date of publication of application: **08.10.99**

(51) Int. Cl

**G02B 6/44**

**G02B 6/44**

**G02B 6/44**

(21) Application number: **10078053**

(22) Date of filing: **25.03.98**

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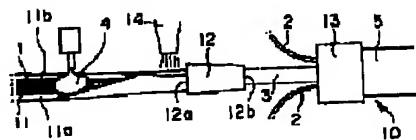
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**(54) OPTICAL FIBER AND ITS MANUFACTURE**

**(57) Abstract:**

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To manufacture an optical cable at cost lower than conventional cost and to easily perform connecting operation.

**SOLUTION:** A beltlike material 11 and a coated optical fiber 1 are arranged in parallel. A filler 4 is encapsulated on the beltlike material 11 and coated optical fiber 1 at regular intervals along the length. The beltlike material 11 and coated optical fiber 1 are introduced into a former 12 and the beltlike material 11 is shaped cylindrically to obtain a cylinder body 3 containing the coated optical fiber 1. This cylinder body 3 and a tension member 2 are coated together with a sheath 5.



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